

ONE FIEND TOO MANY.

And He Disturbed the Audience Not Less Than the Actors.

Up to the year 1746 there seems to have been no regular and permanent theater in Scotland. In that year the foundation stone of the Canongate theater was laid by Lacy Ryan of the Covent Garden theater, London. At the prices then customary—viz. 2s. 6d., 1s. 6d. and 1s.—a full house was worth from £80 to £95. On special occasions, such as the benefit of a popular actor, as much as £70 was taken, but only by admitting spectators to the wings and even to the stage itself. Sometimes the stage was so crowded in this way that the actors had not sufficient room to carry out their "business" properly and, if engaged in a duel, had to shorten their lunges for fear of pinning a patron. It is to the credit of Garrick that he was the first to set his face against this abuse and to close the stage door even to a prince of the blood. Those were days in which every theater led a precarious existence. Actors were barely tolerated. They were legally "vagrabonds." Their profession was considered immoral not only by the great bulk of the public, but, in a way, by themselves. A curious illustration of this had been afforded a little while before at a theater in London. In a play called "The Sorcerer" (titles repeat themselves) a dance of devils was to be performed. They were masked and dressed in the usual manner, with all the Dantesque accessories to make them terrible. They were twelve in number. But in the midst of their performance they discovered, to their horror, that a thirteenth had joined himself to them. This was too much for the actors.

Conscious of the fact that they were considered by most men fit candidates for the special attentions of the arch fiend, they fled in all directions before the unwelcome visitor, if haply they might yet escape the destruction which they believed was coming upon them. Owing to this general stampede the supernumerary devil was never unmasked. But when the panic was over it was remembered that there was a thirteenth infernal toilet, which might have been assumed for the occasion by some practical joker. At the time, however, the direct interposition of Satan was firmly believed by the actors and the audience. The actors fled; the audience dispersed to carry to their homes the tidings of this terrible avata. And so profoundly did it affect the imagination of some of the spectators that they professed to have seen the intruder fly away through the roof of the theater and to have been themselves almost suffocated by the residuary stench.—London Graphic.

Nicholas.

As a Christian name Nicholas positively came over with the conqueror. He landed in the parish of St. Nicholas, at Pevensey. Domesday book contains only one Nicholas, undisputed as yet by that intrusive aspirant, which has also taken undue possession of Antony, though it has dropped out, en revanche, from Hadrian and from Hannah. From the conquest on the Nicholases multiplied and were very abundant. I find the name most frequent in mediaeval documents. Nicholas Breakspear was the only Englishman ever made a pope. Nicholas Ridley was the burned bishop, while Sir Nicholas Bacon was the father of the man who, there is every reason to suppose, did not write "Hamlet," "Macbeth" and "Othello." Nicholas Udall, master of Eton, was the author of "Ralph Roister-Doister," the first English comedy. In Scotland the name got shortened into Nicol, in which form it was borne by many a "kilted loon" as well as by the immortal Balle Nicol Jarvie. Pope Nicholas V., who founded the Capella Niccolina at the Vatican, gave it a fresh lease of life. But the reformation scotched it. It lingered on awhile in some half hearted way and received its coup de grace from the grotesque combination of Nicholas Nickleby.—Cornhill Magazine.

Wood Saints in Palestine.

"Wood saints" are peculiarities of modern Palestine. They are described in a book of travel and exploration, "The Jordan Valley and Petra," by Dr. Libbey and Dr. Hoskins. At El Abadiyeh, below the sea of Galilee, where the Jordan is fordable, they found their first good specimens of a "wood saint." A couple of straggling trees mark the resting place of some holy Moslem. The grave has made the trees sacred, has given them a new name, "fakireh" (poor), and has rendered them safe from outrage for ages to come. The grave of the holy man and the sacred trees convert the spot into a sort of sanctuary or "safety deposit," and here the superstitious people bring firewood, roof timbers, old doors and windows, agricultural implements, wooden measures and household vessels for safe keeping. They are safer here than they could possibly be under lock and key in their wretched homes. So it comes to pass that these Moslem "wood saints" are altogether an extremely useful fraternity.

The Hapsburgs and the Ravens.

The Hapsburgs have a horror of the raven, which, says the London Tatler, has always been a veritable bird of evil to the house. When the Emperor Francis Joseph accepted the Austrian crown a flight of ravens passed over Olmutz and sent a shiver through his supporters. Before the ill fated Maximilian started for Mexico a raven followed him and his wife through the grounds of their castle of Miramar and fluttered on to the princess's train. When King Alfonso's mother, then an archduchess, left her native country for Spain a raven escorted her to the railway station. More remarkable still,

a huge raven flew into the face of the Empress Elizabeth the day before she was murdered at Geneva.

He Was Forced to Resign. Weary Willie—I had a good job once, but was forced to resign. Mrs. Handout—How was that? Weary Willie—Why, because de boss wouldn't fire me.—Judge.

Some Clever Sayings

By Bright Youngsters

VISITOR—How is it that you can only count up to ten, Tommy? Small Tommy—"Cause that's all the fingers I've got.

"Why do you want a light left in your room when you go to bed, dear?" asked Elsie's mother. "Are you afraid?" "No, mamma," replied Elsie; "I want it so I can see to go to sleep."

Little Nellie—Oh, mamma, I met a little girl today who never saw a cow! Mamma—Indeed! Who is she? Little Nellie—I don't remember her name, but she said her papa was a milkman.

One day when it was thundering very loud Willie, aged five, said, "Mamma, I guess the angels must be cleaning house."

"Why do you think so, dear?" asked his mother. "Cause," was the reply, "I hear them moving the furniture around."—Chicago News.

Ferils of Proverbs.

An Indianapolis schoolmaster has learned something of the perils of proverbs for the youthful mind. "Now, boys," he said, "remember it is the early bird that catches the worm."

Next day a lad with a tear stained face sat in the class room.

"What's the matter, Tommy?" asked the teacher.

"Please, sir, you said it was the early bird that got the worm."

"Yes."

"Well, father thrashed me!"

"What for, my boy?"

"Cos, sir, I let our canary out early this morning and it never came back with the worm."

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